The Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd.,

GOPAL BAGH :: COIMBATORE.

Welcome Speech of

Shri G. D. NAIDU,

President, I. L. W. A. Ltd., Coimbatore

Speeches by

Shri M. A. MANICKAVELU,

Minister for Revenue and Health,
Government of Madras

and

His Excellency the Governor of Kerala

Shri V. V. GIRI.

Opening of the SIDDHA RESEARCH LAB

at

CONTI BUILDINGS, COIMBATORE.

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On 1—4—1961 evening Shri G. D. Naidu, President of the Industrial Labour Welfare Association Limited, Coimbatore requested His Excellency the Governor of Kerala Shri V. V. Giri to open the Siddha Research Lab at "Conti Building", Coimbatore. While welcoming the Governor of Kerala and the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Health Shri M. A. Manickavelu, Mr. Naidu traced the origin and working of the Siddha Research Lab and emphasised the need for starting Siddha Research Laboratory in our Country, especially in Tamil Nad. He added that Siddha Medical System was one of the ancient medical sciences in Tamil Nad and that it was very cheap and efficacious. He expressed that the college of Indigenous Medicines should be revived and worked for the betterment of the country and the nation and in that case this Siddha Research Lab and other facilities afforded by him would be made available for the college.

Shri M. A. Manickavelu, Minister for Revenue and Health, Madras said that Siddha System was very cheap and efficient and was

best suited for a poor country like ours and that it should be practised by qualified and experienced Siddha Medical Practitioners.

His Excellency the Governor of Kerala Shri V. V. Giri endorsed the views of Shri G. D. Naidu and Shri Manickavelu, Minister for Revenue and Health, Madras. He pointed out that in Kerala the Ayurvedic System was being run on a very large scale in big buildings for Hospitals with all facilities and modern amenities. He added that the Indian system of medicines was very effective and cheap.

He made appreciative reference to the working of Shri G. D. Naidu for the cause of the Siddha Medical Research and wished the Laboratory every success.

Dr. M. Shanmugavelu, H. P. I. M., proposed a vote of thanks.

Speech by

Sri G. D. NAIDU.

Your Excellency, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Friends,

We welcome you here on this important occasion of opening of the Siddha Research Laboratory by His Excellency, the Governor of Kerala, Shri V. V. Giri. On account of short time I was not able to invite many other doctors for this function.

I am glad to introduce Dr. C. S. Ramaswami Iyer, Dr. C. R. Subramaniam and Dr. M. Shanmughavelu, whose services are available here for the research work.

Of course on behalf of all doctors and poor sufferers of various diseases, I request the co-operation of both of you on this subject.

The Kerala State has got more medicinal herbs than any other part of India. The Madras State has got many Doctors in Siddha system who can help to produce the cheapest and most valuable medicines in the world. The only drawback is that no

research facilities are available for this system. Hence in some suitable place a research laboratory with complete equipments to prepare the medicines by various herbs and minerals should be made available in these 2 states. Now if this work is started immediately we can produce many medicines for several dreadful diseases for which so far no medicines are available in other systems.

I have received an invitation for a Symposium at Naples for a Conference in the middle of September this year on the subjects of diseases such as Cancer, Diabetes, Asthma and other dreadful diseases. If this research in Siddha medicines is successful within this time I will take these medicines and records for the above conference at Naples for further research and use by world well-known expert Doctors on these subjects.

Unfortunately the most suitable college (namely the College of Indigenous Medicines, Madras) for this type of work is closed now and it may be difficult to get a suitable place immediately. Therefore with your firm conviction and decision if you allow, the same College of Indigenous Medicines entirely opened for the same Siddha system without any mixture of other

systems, I think in a few years the abnormal expenses in Hospitals can be avoided, many patients will enjoy their sure cure with less expenses in a very short time.

This laboratory also will work in conjunction with that college. In this place Late Dr. Major B. P. B, Naidu, M. D., (Edin), M. Hy, D. P. H., D. T. M., (L. Pool) had made research for the last 9 years and developed 2 or 3 wonderful medicines. All his formulas are here for further research.

For the preperation of the medicines all arrangements are made here. An experienced Dr. C. R. Subramaniam, B. Sc., M. B., B. S., F. R. C. S., F. R. F. P. S., (England) who is the son of a well-known eminent Dr. C. S. Ramaswami Iyer, is attending here every day for consultation. He has got a very fine nursing home with modern good equipment in a most healthy, nature cure locality. In this nursing home not only Dr. Ramaswami Iyer's help is available but also the services of Dr. Subramaniam who was serving as Head, as Registrar of 3 Hospitals in England is available. In addition to him another expert Dr. Krishnamurthi who has spent in practical work, 5 years in America is also working here. All of them are very keen to see the results of the medicines in Siddha system.

I am also very fortunate to get the services of Dr. Shanmughavelu, H. P. I. M., who was a District Board Medical Officer for about 30 years in Siddha system and who was Professor in the College of Indigenous Medicines, and the best Siddha Doctor amongst many Doctors available in South India, to analyse, prepare and use the Siddha medicines here.

I have given many facilities including sufficient lands for producing several herbs and seeds required for these medicines and sufficient funds.

All these facilities will be made available to the college if it is opened now.

Then our kind friend the Governor Sri V. V. Giri has also promised to give all facilities and co-operation from Kerala to find out the medicines for the dreadful diseases.

I hope you both will discuss these matters and come to a decision before you leave this place.

I thank you all.

Speech by

Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU,

Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Health, Madras

Your Excellency, Sri G. D. Naidu & Friends,

I am very glad to be here and be participating in this function, because I am very much interested in the development of the Indigenous system of medicine. With that object, you all know, the Indian School of Medicines was started at Madras for which the late lamented Raja of Panagal was responsible. But the object of that institution was not fulfilled. As it went on, the indigenous system was neglected and more and more devotion was given to the Allopathic system. I think the students as well as others were responsible for that and finally we found that without doing any good to the indigenous system, the integrated course was really harmful to the development of the indigenous system and that is why though Mr. Naidu characterizes it as unfortunately the school

was closed, I will characterize it as fortunately the school was closed, because, the students never believed in it and even now the agitation is going on by the students. They have now prescribed about 20 or 30% of the curriculam as Indian medicine, and the rest as Allopathy. Even that they want to be dropped. They want that to be dropped even for the coming examination in a week or two. They are not at all interested. So how can this system of medicine develop in that atmosphere? That is why we have closed it.

But having closed it, since we are anxious to develop the indigenous system of medicine, we have appointed a committee of people proficient in this system with Dr. Mehta, as Chairman, who is an Allopathic doctor, England returned and who is interested in this. He has submitted a report and we are examining that. His main recommendation is that it should be an independent course for this Indian system of medicine. He has prescribed a course of about 5 years, I think, including the internment for getting the degree for

students of that system. Then he envisages a post-graduate course also and he also has recommended that the graduates in the Allopathic system should take interest in and have a recourse to the Post graduate study. Then only we could scientifically examine the efficacy of the medicine in the indigenous system and do the necessary standardization and the regular pharmacopoeia and all that.

Now the idea is to start it in this academic year by July. We are taking all steps. We do not know how far we will be able to implement it; but we want to do it.

Now there are very good specifics in the indigenous system, especially in the Siddha system there are very potent medicines and at the same time the medicine is very cheap as in Homoeopathy. In Homoeopathy, they say the medicines are very cheap. Similarly in Siddha system also it is very cheap. But it must be administered by the really proficient man and not by the seemingly proficient man. Now every body who has a dabbling of these things, he feigns to be a big doctor and prescribes doses and all that. That won't do. That only brings a bad name to this system because if they are not proficient in that system, they begin to dabble in this and

some times it miscarries. That is the trouble. That is why a really proficient man should take to it and then it will develop.

And then in our system of medicines, there is a lot of difference in the preparation of medicines, I think in the standard. It varies from one doctor to another, even in the preparation and therefore the efficacy also varies.

To give one instance, in my district there was one doctor. He was very well known there and a lot of people were going to him and the medicine also was so cheap, no medicine would cost more than 6 annas. I am talking of 10 or 15 years ago. Whether it was some oil or "lehiam" or any thing, only 6 annas was his maximum. Practically he was making it not for money but as a piece of service. Now I want to tell you, how he preparad that medicine.

Now the Kushmanda Lehiam as some of you know is made out of ash gourd "Kalyanapusanikkai" the ash colourd thing. Generally people go to the market, buy it, smash it and do it. But that doctor gave orders to the people who grow that thing. He said that it must get ripened in the plant itself. It must be completely ripe

and then only they must pluck it and bring it and so, that lehiam prepared by him was more efficient than other things. So also in other things, in all other preparations also, he took care to keep up the proper standard and efficacy. All that we have to do.

Now I am glad that Mr. Naidu has come forward to establish this laboratory. I went rount and saw. He has made every thing convenient for the doctor and for the preparation to be made and all that. I wish more people of his temperament will come forward and give all facilities. Much depends on research and therefore I am glad that he has established this thing and this will also be an encouragement for others and for the Government also. I suppose to take early steps to have this Indian system of medicine developed and put on a par with other systems of medicines in the world.

I am glad I have been given this opportunity and another thing I want to tell is, I had been contemplating to visit Kerala and see how the Ayurvedic system is working, because it is there very large number of people practise this system and they have got a hospital which is well known. The Governor had been kind

enough to invite me also. Therefore I will take the earliest opportunity of going to Kerala and study their Ayurvedic system. Of course this Siddha system can be developed only here because it is only prevalent in Tamil Nad but we are wedded to all systems, all the three – Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha also. After visiting all these institutions, we can evolve a scheme, by which our Indian system of medicine can be developed.

THANK YOU. (Cheers).

Speech by

H. E. The Governor of Kerala,

Sri V. V. GIRI

Hon'ble Minister, Comrades, Doctors and Friends,

I am happy that we have our Health Minister in our midst and also practical proposals from our esteemed friend, Dr. Naidu on the subject of Sidhha and he is anxious that something should be done to encourage that system. I begin my remarks with a statement, that I have respect for all systems of medicine – Allopathy, Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy. In a poor country like ours it may be difficult for every body to approach Allopathic system or the Allopathic Doctors which will cost a great deal. I think these systems may be equally suitable – the only difference being Ayurveda, Sidha or Unani medicines are cheaper, so that the poorer classes in the rural areas will be able to secure the help

of these systems. Our knowledge in these systems is extensive; but unfortunately to-day in our country we have a large number of quacks treating patients with Ayurvedic system or Homoeopathic system. Homoeopathic system, I think, can be worked up even by quacks; there are some books and they read them and become doctors. But I do not think so in the case of Ayurveda. So far as Ayurveda is concerned, unless that medicine is practised by real experts good results will not follow and the system will fail. Therefore we ought to be careful to see that we have perfect research in this matter.

I am glad Shri Naidu, who is a technician in other matters as well as agriculture, really hit the nail when he wanted this system to be encouraged by beginning with a research department. That is a right way of approach and I am absolutely certain, my esteemed friend, the Health Minister is equally anxious to encourage this system and he has belief and I have belief and all have belief provided the system is foolproof.

I am absolutely confident that if Shri Naidu puts forth the blue-print before the Government as to what he has done – he has already done a great deal – they would consider the matter seriously. I would like to see that this organization is established in Coimbatore where people are anxious and I am sure the whole matter will proceed in the right direction.

I was astounded with the way in which the State of Kerala has tackled the Ayurveda system. There is a Hospital far bigger than most of your District Hospitals, with 250 beds. A number of doctors are taking their degrees on the one side and diplomas on the other and after taking their degrees or diplomas they are assured of appointment. They work as doctors in various rural areas. They have got their medicines and people almost, I think, I cannot be certain, a good percentage of them believe really in Ayurveda system. The Kerala people believe in the Navarkazhi treatment that they give in the hospitals and beds are provided for them. I was really very much impressed with the scientific way in which they are dealing with the Ayurvedic system. I was therefore glad when the Hon'ble Minister told me that he would like to come to Kerala. He would be certainly impressed with the way in which they are running their institution.

There is also trouble there. They want to be equally efficient English doctors as well as in Ayurveda in the integrated course and so on. There are certain difficulties. In fact only the other day I presided over their College Day celebrations and the Principal and students told me that they would like to come and discuss the whole matter with me and a decision will have to be taken as to how the whole course is to be integrated. Even there is lot of controversy and difficulty. But certainly so far as herbs are concerned, there is no place other than Kerala in the whole of India and I can assure you that the extent to which we may be able to help Shri Naidu and the Madras Government and co-ordinate our activities with yours, we will be prepared to assist. Therefore I have great pleasure in inviting not only the Health Minister to Kerala but Shri Naidu also for other purposes as well of establishing industries there and so you can be sure of my support and sympathy and any help I could render as the head of that State is there for you. I congratulate Shri Naidu for taking up this difficult matter and try to see that Siddha is placed on a basis where people can be sure of the research that has taken place and that the medicine that will be given is given by the best experts and in this matter the Health Minister, who also believes in a similar

way, will be able to help Dr. Naidu. I would only want to tell Dr. Naidu that he must put forward a clear, unambiguous blue-print before the Minister and tell him what he has already done. The Health Minister is fortunately here and we should try to see that we come to some conclusion. I am therefore very glad indeed to be present here along with the Hon'ble Minister. I wish the institution every success.

Vote of thanks by

Dr. Shanmughavelu.

On behalf of the President and the members of the Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd., and on my behalf and on behalf of all the guests I offer our heartiest thanks for the trouble taken in coming and opening the institution.

Thank you,

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